

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

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S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS STATE 050291

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 13,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. THERE WAS A REPORT FROM TURKEY TODAY THAT TURKEY
HAS ORDERED THE RESUMPTION OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION AFTER
SEVERAL YEARS AND HAS INFORMED YOU ABOUT IT.

A. RIGHT. THAT'S NOT QUITE THE WAY WE HEARD ABOUT IT.
THERE IS ONE PARTICULAR NEWS ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN
REPORTING THIS AS AN ESTABLISHED FACT FOR THE PAST WEEK OR
SO, BUT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED WORD THAT THEY ARE RESUMING
CULTIVATION OF POPPIES.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT IT HAS NOT MADE
A DECISION REGARDING THE RESUMPTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION AS
SUCH. WHAT THEY HAVE SAID IS THAT THEY WILL PLANT A
LIMITED AMOUNT OF POPPY ON STATE FARM PLOTS IN ORDER TO
PRESERVE THEIR SEED SUPPLY.

Q. WHAT DO THEY NEED THE SEED SUPPLY FOR? HAVE THEY
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EXPLAINED?

A. WELL, AS IS WELL KNOWN, THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY

HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBILITY THEY WOULD RETURN
TO CULTIVATION. BUT, AS I SAY, THEY HAVEN'T TOLD US OF
THAT, THAT THE DECISION TO DO SO HAS BEEN MADE.

Q. DO WE AGREE THAT THEIR SEED SUPPLY HAS BEEN ENDANGERED,
THAT THERE'S ANY NEED FOR THIS?

A. WELL, ABOUT THE SEED SUPPLY I'LL JUST SAY THAT WE'VE
MADE CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY THAT WE BELIEVE
THAT THE TURKISH OPIUM BAN HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN
REDUCING THE FLOW OF HEROIN TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT
WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE BAN.

Q. DID YOU SAY ON STATE FARMS?

A. PLOTS, YES.

Q. CAN YOU SAY HOW MUCH OF THE FUNDS THAT THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT GAVE TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP
SUBSTITUTE CROPS HAS BEEN EXPENDED?

A. OFFHAND I CAN'T, BUT I'LL LOOK INTO THAT.

Q. WILL YOU TAKE THE QUESTION?

A. YES. YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT THE ARRANGE-
MENTS THAT WE ENTERED INTO IN THAT PROGRAM WERE WITH THE
PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOW CON-
SIDERING A CHANGE IN POLICY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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